DARK HORSE COMICS

#2

THE ORVILLE

NEW BEGINNINGS

PART 2 OF 2

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NEW BEGINNINGS PART 2 OF 2

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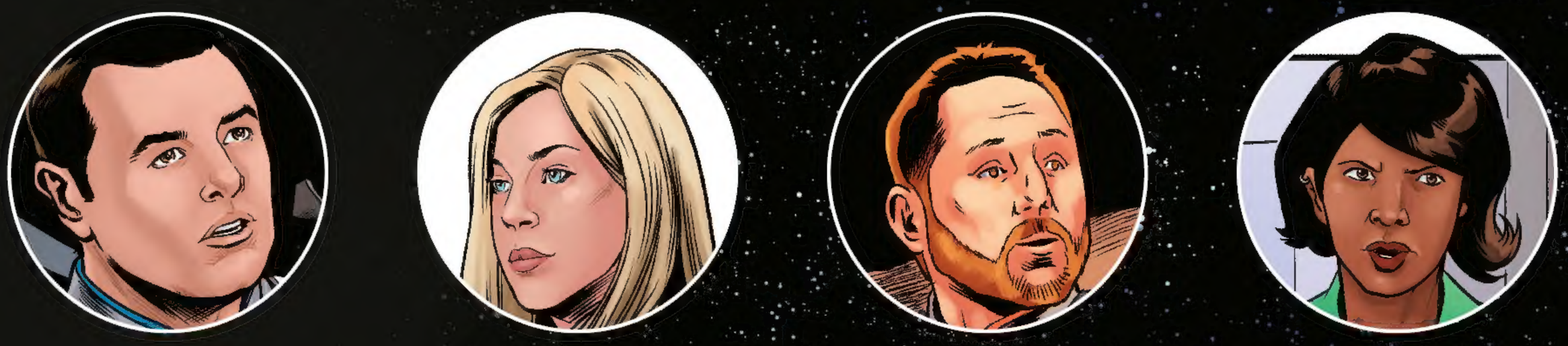
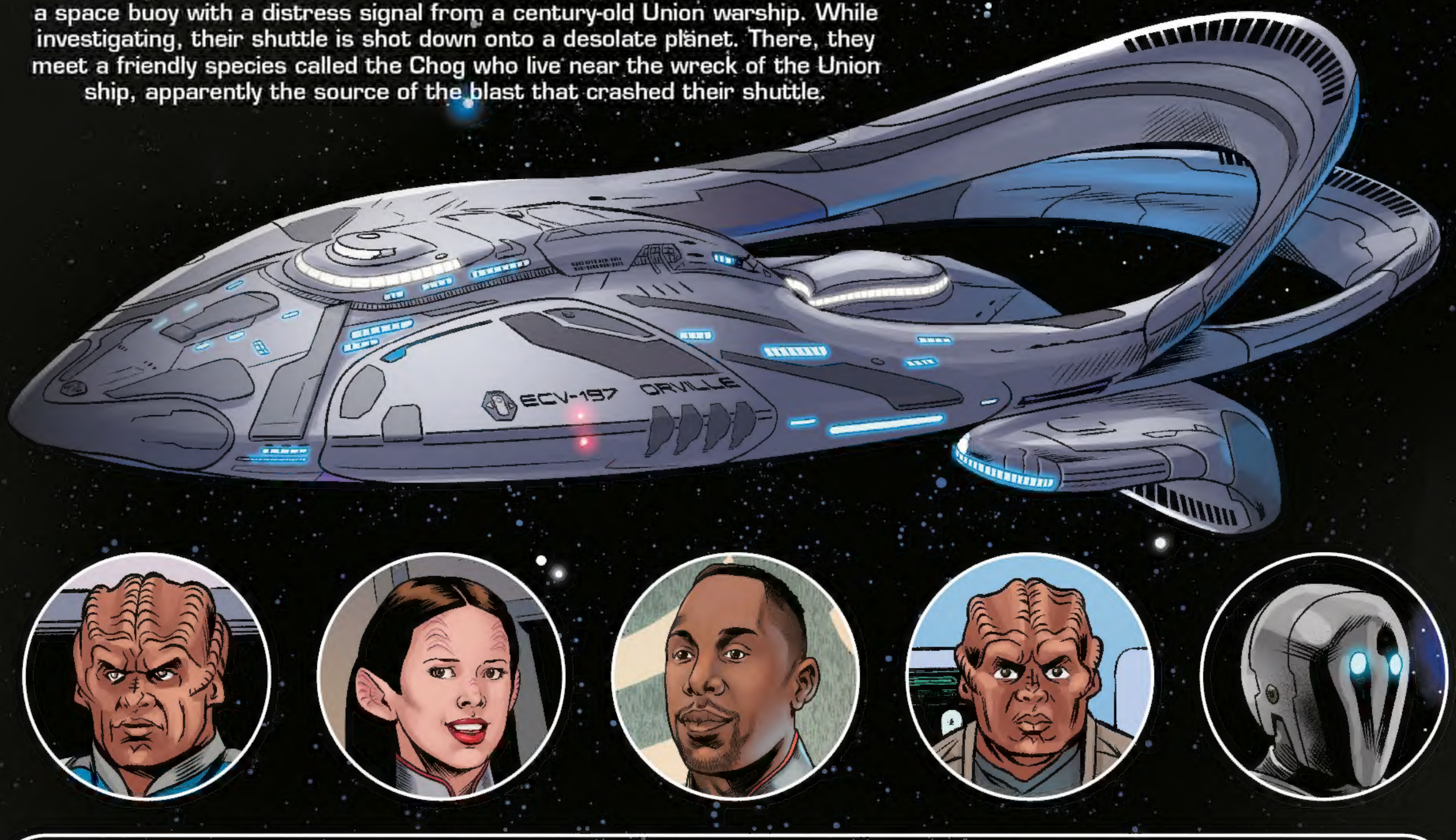
LETTERING
RICHARD STARKINGS & COMICRAFT'S JIMMY BETANCOURT



Previously, on *The Orville*: On the way to a conference, Ed and Gordon find a space buoy with a distress signal from a century-old Union warship. While investigating, their shuttle is shot down onto a desolate planet. There, they meet a friendly species called the Chog who live near the wreck of the Union ship, apparently the source of the blast that crashed their shuttle.



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"ED, WHAT THE HELL IS GOING ON..."

BCV BURTON

THE ENERGY READING IS FROM THE QUANTUM REACTOR...

BCV

COME, THIS IS OUR FOOD PLACE.

THEY MUST HAVE USED IT TO FIRE THE CANNON.
THE PENGUINS SHOT US DOWN?
I DON'T KNOW, THEY'RE SO PRIMITIVE. WE'VE GOT TO FIND OUT MORE...
I'VE NEVER BEEN ON ONE OF THESE OLD BATTLESHIPS.
REALLY? THERE'S ONE IN THE FLEET MUSEUM.
YEAH, NOT REALLY A "MUSEUM" GUY...
YOU WERE SAYING THEY WERE TOO PRIMITIVE...?
I DON'T BELIEVE IT.
THEY'VE TURNED THIS WHOLE SHIP INTO A GLORIFIED DRIVE-THRU.

BIG MAC, LARGE FRIES, DIET COKE.

YOU CAN CHOOSE TO EAT ANYTHING IN THE WORLD, AND YOU CHOOSE... MUD?

MAYBE THEY CAN'T CHOOSE ANYTHING... EVERYTHING'S ON A LOW POWER LEVEL.

IF IT'S PRESET, IT DOESN'T REQUIRE ANY USE OF THE COMPUTER.

MAYBE WE CAN SNOOP AROUND A LITTLE. COME ON.

MY FRIENDS, YOU CAN'T GO IN THERE, IT'S FORBIDDEN.

COME, JOIN US TO EAT AND SING IN PRAISE.

OH, SORRY...

WHY IS IT FORBIDDEN, THOZ?

IT JUST IS AND ALWAYS HAS BEEN. COME.

THINK THOZ KNEW WHAT WE WERE UP TO--?

I DON'T KNOW. WE HAVE TO FIND OUT MORE, BEFORE THE *ORVILLE* COMES LOOKING FOR US.

I HOPE IT'S SOON. THIS FOOD IS TERRIBLE.

BEAUTIFUL, ISN'T IT?

IT IS...

YOU'RE UP LATE...

I LIKE THE QUIET. MIND IF I JOIN YOU?

LOOK, CASSIUS, YOU'RE A NICE GUY, BUT MY LIFE IS REALLY COMPLICATED. IN CASE YOU DIDN'T KNOW, MY COMMANDING OFFICER IS ALSO MY EX-HUSBAND, BUT OF COURSE YOU KNEW THAT, EVERYBODY KNOWS THAT, SO YOU CAN UNDERSTAND I HAVE TO TREAD REALLY CAREFULLY, AND SOMETIMES I HAVE TO PUT MY PERSONAL LIFE ON HOLD...

...THAT'S NOT TO SAY I'M NOT INTERESTED, I AM, YOU'RE SUCH A NICE GUY... I KNOW, I SAID THAT ALREADY, BUT I REALLY MEAN IT, AND IF THINGS WERE DIFFERENT I WOULD LOVE TO SEE WHERE THIS TAKES US...

...BUT I JUST DON'T THINK IT'D BE GOOD FOR EITHER ONE OF US. I HOPE YOU UNDERSTAND.

UH... OKAY, SINCE OUR RELATIONSHIP IS ALREADY A HUGE DISASTER, THERE'S NO HARM IN ME SITTING HERE AND LOOKING AT THE STAR WITH YOU, RIGHT?

YEAH, SURE...

THOSE DINNER SONGS WEREN'T BAD... I CAN'T GET THEM OUT OF MY HEAD.

SHHH...

LOOKS LIKE THE KITCHEN IS CLOSED AFTER DARK.

WE'VE GOT TO FIND ANOTHER WAY IN.

I NOTICED A HULL BREACH ON THE OTHER SIDE...

I DID TOO, JUST STARBOARD OF THE ENGINE ROOM.

NO FOOTPRINTS IN THE DUST. DOESN'T LOOK LIKE ANYONE'S BEEN IN HERE FOR A WHILE.

BUT THEY HAD TO, TO SHOOT THE CANNON, RIGHT?

ONE WOULD THINK.

THIS IS WEIRD.

CHECK WEAPONS CONTROL, I'LL LOOK AT THE REACTOR.

THE REACTOR IS ONLY FEEDING TWO SYSTEMS, THE FOOD SYNTHESIZER AND THE CANNON. EVERYTHING ELSE HAS BEEN CUT OFF.

BUT HOW DID THEY SHOOT US DOWN WITH A CENTURY-OLD GUN ON LOW POWER?

ED... THEY DIDN'T SHOOT US DOWN.

WHAT DO YOU MEAN?

RANGE

AUTO SCANNING...

THE TARGETING SCANNER IS SET FOR AUTOMATIC. IT SHOOTS DOWN ANYTHING THAT GETS WITHIN A THOUSAND KILOMETERS OF THE ENCAMPMENT.

AND THE CANNON'S BATTERY IS AT FIVE HUNDRED PERCENT CAPACITY, IT MUST BE STORING ENERGY A LITTLE AT A TIME.

IT OPERATES AT FULL POWER. THEY MUST NOT USE IT THAT OFTEN.

ALL THAT DEBRIS IN ORBIT...THE CANNON IS MEANT TO PROTECT THE CHOGS FROM IT.

AND IT THOUGHT OUR SHUTTLE WAS JUST SOME DEBRIS.

STILL, THE CHOGS COULDN'T HAVE SET THIS UP.

LET'S GO TO THE BRIDGE, MAYBE THERE'S A SHIP'S LOG OR SOMETHING...

SHOULDN'T WE SHUT IT DOWN BEFORE IT MAKES THE SAME MISTAKE ABOUT *ORVILLE*?

YOU WANT TO TAKE THE CHANCE A BIG PIECE OF REAL DEBRIS DOESN'T DECIDE TO FALL TONIGHT? I DON'T.

BESIDES, ISAAC ISN'T DUE TO FINISH HIS MAGNETAR STUDY FOR A FEW MORE HOURS.

COMMANDER, I HAVE FINISHED MY STUDY OF THE MAGNETAR.

A FEW HOURS EARLY.

I AM VERY EFFICIENT.

OR DID YOU SET A GOAL THAT YOU KNEW YOU'D BEAT?

NEGATIVE, LIEUTENANT. MY INITIAL ESTIMATE WAS BASED ON THE LIMITATIONS OF UNION EQUIPMENT WHICH I COMPENSATED FOR BY SIMULTANEOUSLY UPGRADING THE SCANNER ARRAY.

VERY EFFICIENT. HELM, TAKE US OUT OF ORBIT AND SET COURSE FOR OUTPOST 23.

HEY, BORTUS, HOW'S TOPA LIKING SCHOOL?

HE ENJOYS IT, BUT KLYDEN IS DISATISFIED.

WHAT'S THE PROBLEM NOW?

THE TEACHER DOES NOT INCLUDE COMBAT TRAINING IN THE CURRICULUM.

GUESS YOU'LL HAVE TO GET HIM A TUTOR.

THAT IS OUR INTENTION.

COMMANDER, WE'VE CLEARED THE INTERFERENCE AND ARE RECEIVING A MESSAGE FROM OUTPOST 23...

...THE CAPTAIN AND GORDON NEVER ARRIVED.

NO SIGN OF THEM? NO DISTRESS CALL?

NO, SIR.

PREPARE TO CONDUCT A SEARCH. WE'RE GOING TO RETRACE THEIR STEPS.

HELM, TAKE US TO QUANTUM. MATCH THE SHUTTLE'S COURSE EXACTLY.

NO POWER HERE AT ALL.

I'M GOING TO TRY TO TRANSFER SOME OF MY COMSCANNER'S TO THIS PANEL.

THERE'S A MESSAGE...

HOW'D YOU KNOW THIS IS WHERE THE MESSAGE WOULD BE?

IT'S WHERE I WOULD PUT IT.

I'M ENSIGN HODGES... RELIEF NAVIGATOR... OUR TASK FORCE WAS SUCKERED INTO THIS UNCHARTED SYSTEM WITH A FALSE DISTRESS SIGNAL.

THE BATTLE'S OVER... BURTON'S THE ONLY SHIP LEFT, SO WE WON, I GUESS, AND WE CRASHED ON THE PLANET...

...ALL THE SENIOR OFFICERS KILLED... I'M THE MOST SENIOR... I'M IN COMMAND.

OUR CRASH... KILLED THE PLANET..

...THERE WAS A LEAK IN THE QUANTUM REACTOR... IT POISONED THE BIOSPHERE.

ALL PLANT AND MOST OF THE ANIMAL LIFE IS DYING.

BUT THESE FUNNY LITTLE ANIMALS... CAME AND OFFERED HELP.

THEY WANT TO HELP US. THEY DON'T KNOW THEY'RE GOING TO DIE BECAUSE OF WHAT WE DID.

ME AND THE CREW, THERE'S ABOUT TWENTY OF US, ARE NOT GOING TO LET THAT HAPPEN. I DON'T KNOW WHAT WE CAN DO, BUT WE'RE GOING TO DO SOMETHING.

WE'VE GOT TO DO SOMETHING, THEY DIDN'T ASK TO BE A PART OF THIS.

HODGES OUT.

THEY REPAIRED THE REACTOR AND HOOKED IT UP TO THE FOOD SYNTHESIZER, MADE THAT PARTICLE CANNON TO PROTECT THE CHOGS...

...AND IT'S ALL FUNCTIONED FOR A HUNDRED YEARS. KID DID GOOD WORK.

WE CAN'T BE THE REASON IT ALL FALLS APART. COME ON.

WHAT DO YOU MEAN?

ORVILLE IS GOING TO FIND THE SAME TRAIL OF BREADCRUMBS THAT LED US HERE. WHICH MEANS IT'LL BE A TARGET FOR THE PARTICLE CANNON.

YEAH, BUT THE *ORVILLE* CAN TAKE A PUNCH BETTER THAN THE SHUTTLE.

THAT'S NOT WHAT I'M WORRIED ABOUT.

IF *ORVILLE* FIRES BACK, ONE SHOT COULD BE ENOUGH TO BLOW THE REACTOR, AND KILL EVERYONE AND EVERYTHING IN A ONE KILOMETER RADIUS.

OH, YEAH, THAT WOULDN'T BE GOOD.

HODGES AND HIS CREW DID THEIR BEST TO PROTECT THE CHOGS. WE OWE IT TO ALL OF THEM TO TRY TO DO THE SAME.

I'M GOING TO SET MY COMSCANNER TO SEND OUT A REGULAR MESSAGE TO *ORVILLE* TO RAISE THEIR DEFLECTOR SCREENS AND HOLD THEIR FIRE. THAT'LL BUY US A LITTLE TIME ONCE THEY'RE IN ORBIT.

ED...

NO ONE IS ALLOWED IN THE FOOD PLACE.

THOZ, I CAN EXPLAIN...

TAKE THEM!

OW! GUYS, TAKE IT EASY... WE'RE ALL PALS...

THOZ, PLEASE, WE CAN HELP-- AHHH!

ISAAC, ANYTHING?

THE DISTRESS SIGNAL LT. KITAN RECEIVED IS COMING FROM THIS GENERAL VICINITY.
AS FAINT AS IT IS, IS IT LIKELY THAT ED AND GORDON PICKED IT UP?
IT WOULD SEEM PROBABLE.
I AM DETECTING AN OBJECT, THIRTY-TWO DEGREES TO STARBOARD.
LET'S SEE IT.
ON SCREEN.
UNION SHIP COMMUNICATIONS BUOY. AN OLD ONE.
IT BELONGS TO THE BCV *BURTON*, A UNION VESSEL LOST IN THE WAR WITH THE TZEL.
THAT WAS LIKE A HUNDRED YEARS AGO.
ISAAC, SEE IF YOU CAN INTERFACE WITH THE BUOY.
AYE, SIR.
WHAT DO YOU HOPE TO FIND?
I DON'T KNOW. BUT IT'S WHAT ED WOULD'VE DONE.

"ED?"

"ED? YOU OKAY..."

OH BOY...

HOW LONG HAVE I BEEN OUT?

I DON'T KNOW, THEY TOOK OUR COMSCANNERS AND I'M NOT WEARING A WATCH.

DID YOU GET A CHANCE TO SET THAT SIGNAL?

NO...

WHAT WERE YOU DOING IN THE FOOD PLACE?

THOZ, I NEED THE LITTLE BOXES YOU TOOK FROM US...

YOU WILL FIRST ANSWER MY QUESTION.

WE WERE INSIDE BECAUSE THE FOOD PLACE... WAS BUILT BY MY PEOPLE.

WHAT DO YOU MEAN, "YOUR PEOPLE?"

WE COME FROM SOMEPLACE ELSE. THOZ, DO YOU KNOW THAT AT ONE TIME THIS WORLD WAS VERY DIFFERENT?

I HAVE HEARD MANY STORIES, YES.

WELL, IT WAS THE FOOD PLACE THAT CHANGED IT, THAT KILLED IT.

OH BOY... YOU'RE GONNA GET HIM MADDER.

HOW COULD IT DO THAT?

THE FOOD PLACE IS A SHIP... OR WAS A SHIP... THAT FLIES. WHEN IT CRASHED, IT LEAKED A POISON THAT KILLED THE LIFE ON YOUR PLANET.

I'M NOT WITH HIM. WE BARELY KNOW EACH OTHER.

WHAT YOU SAY IS RIDICULOUS. THE FOOD PLACE IS A BUILDING. IT PROTECTS US AND FEEDS US.

YES, BUT... WAIT, THOZ, YOU SAID YOU'VE HEARD STORIES ABOUT THE WORLD AS IT WAS. FROM WHO?

FROM THE ELDERS WHO LIVED DURING THAT TIME.

ARE ANY OF THEM STILL ALIVE?

THERE IS ONE.

TAKE US TO HIM. HE MIGHT HELP ME PROVE WHAT I'M SAYING. ALL OUR LIVES DEPEND ON IT.

VERY WELL.

"ISAAC, SCAN FOR THE SHUTTLE."

I CANNOT SCAN THE PLANET'S SURFACE THROUGH THE DEBRIS FIELD, HOWEVER I AM PICKING UP AN ION TRAIL THAT COULD HAVE BEEN PRODUCED BY THE SHUTTLE'S ENGINES.

ALARA...

I'VE HAILED THEM, NO RESPONSE.

WE'LL NEED TO SCAN THE PLANET. HELM, TAKE US INTO A LOW ORBIT.

I AM ROP. I AM ONE HUNDRED AND SEVEN YEARS OLD.

I JUST WANT TO SAY YOU LOOK GREAT. DO YOU EAT YOGURT, IS THAT YOUR THING?

WHAT IS IT YOU WANT OF ME?

ROP, DO YOU REMEMBER WHEN YOU CAME TO LIVE HERE? WHEN THE WORLD STARTED TO CHANGE?

YES. I WAS VERY YOUNG. MUCH OF MY FAMILY DIED THEN.

DO YOU REMEMBER MEN LIKE ME WHO LIVED IN THE FOOD PLACE?

YES... IT HAS BEEN SO LONG I'D FORGOTTEN THEM... BUT YES...

ONE NAMED HODGES.

HODGES. HE WANTED TO HELP US. HE BROUGHT US ALL HERE.

HMMMMMMMMM

WHAT'S THAT SOUND--

OH NO...

HMMMM

CHGUNG

"ED, THEY'RE HERE."

WHO THE HELL'S FIRING AT US?

IT IS A SHIP ON THE SURFACE. IT IS THE *BURTON.*

THAT HUNDRED YEAR-OLD SHIP PACKS A WALLOP... TARGET THEM...

HOW CAN YOU KNOW OF HODGES?

HE WAS OF MY PEOPLE. AND I'M LIKE HIM, I WANT TO HELP YOU.

YOU REMEMBER THE GRASS AND THE TREES OF YOUR WORLD? AND THE WATER, ALL THE WATER THAT USED TO BE ON THE GROUND?

YES, AS OLD AS I AM, I HAVE NOT FORGOTTEN.

MY PEOPLE CAN BRING THAT ALL BACK. WE BUILT THE FOOD PLACE, BUT WE CAN DO MUCH MORE NOW. YOU JUST HAVE TO TRUST ME AND GIVE ME THE BOXES THAT YOU TOOK FROM ME.

DO YOU BELIEVE HIM?

I DON'T KNOW. BUT IF THERE IS A CHANCE...

I HAVE A WEAPONS LOCK. ONE SHOT WILL DESTROY THE PARTICLE CANNON.

67.0%

TARGET LOCK

BCV BURTON STATUS

WEAPON SYSTEMS	ARMED
SHIELDS	ACTIVE STATUS: 52%
TARGETING SYSTEM	LOCKED ON
STRUCTURAL INTEGRITY	73% DAMAGED

RETURN FIRE...

KELLY, IT'S ED! WHATEVER YOU DO, DON'T FIRE!

BORTUS!

I DID NOT FIRE.

WHEW. ED, ARE YOU OKAY?

LONG STORY, JUST GET TO A HIGH ORBIT.

TWO DAYS LATER.

...THE *ULYSSES* CAPTAIN WANTS ME TO INTRODUCE HER TO THE NATIVES, AND THEN WE CAN LEAVE ORBIT. THEY'LL HAVE TO TEMPORARILY TRANSPLANT THE CHOGS UNTIL IT'S DONE, BUT SHE THINKS THE PLANET CAN BE TERRAFORMED IN LESS THAN THREE YEARS.

THAT'S GREAT. SO, HOW DOES IT FEEL TO SAVE A SPECIES FROM EXTINCTION?

OH, IT WASN'T ME, IT WAS RELIEF NAVIGATOR HODGES.

SO SAD. THE BURDEN THAT FELL ON HIS SHOULDERS.

YOU KNOW, IN THAT RECORDING, I COULD SEE HIS EXPERIENCE OF THE TRUE TRAGEDY... THE INNOCENT LIVES THAT GET DESTROYED IN A WAR, PEOPLE WHO PLAY NO PART IN DECIDING THERE NEEDS TO BE A WAR IN THE FIRST PLACE. WHO DON'T EVEN KNOW IT'S HAPPENING UNTIL IT DOES. AND HIS SELFLESSNESS MADE ME EMBARRASSED.

EMBARRASSED? ABOUT WHAT?

ABOUT WHAT A DICK I'VE BEEN LATELY. TO YOU.

CAPTAIN'S PREROGATIVE.

WELL, I'M SORRY.

THANKS.

SO, ANYTHING HAPPEN WHILE I WAS AWAY I NEED TO KNOW ABOUT?

NOTHING THAT CAN'T WAIT.